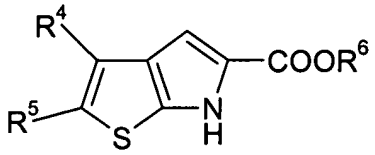
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I)



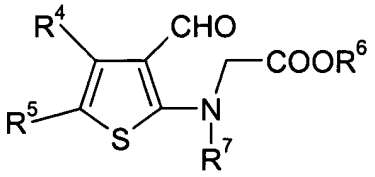
(I)

wherein

R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*,-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, and C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino; and

R^6 is hydrogen or a protecting group,

which process comprises cyclisation of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

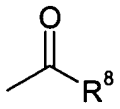
R^4, R^5, and R^6 are as defined in relation to formula (I); and

R^7 is a nitrogen protecting group[[,]]; and

removing protecting group R^7, and thereafter if desired or necessary, removing any protecting group R^6 to obtain the corresponding carboxylic acid.

2. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the protecting group R^7 is removed during the ~~same reaction step as the~~ cyclisation.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, ~~or claim 2~~ wherein in a structure of formula (II), R^7 is a groups of sub-formula (i)



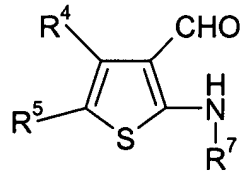
(i)

wherein R^8 is a straight chain alkyl group of from 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1, wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, carboxy, carbamoyl, sulphamoyl, C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{2-4}alkenyl, C_{2-4}alkynyl, C_{1-4}alkoxy, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, and C_{1-4}alkanoyloxy.

5. (Original) A compound of formula (II) as defined in claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 5, which comprises reacting a compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein

~~R^4, R^5 are as defined in claim 1, R^6 and R^7 are as defined in claim 1~~ R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, and C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino;

R^6 is hydrogen or a protecting group; and

R^7 is a nitrogen protecting group, with a compound of formula (IV)

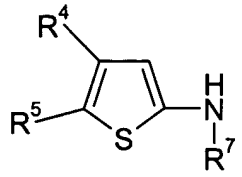
$$LCH_2COOR^6$$

(IV)

where L is a leaving group.

7. (Original) A compound of formula (III) as defined in claim 6.

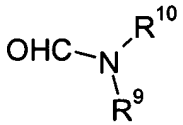
8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 7, which comprises reacting a compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein ~~R^4, R^5 and R^7 are as defined in claim 1~~ R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, and C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino; and

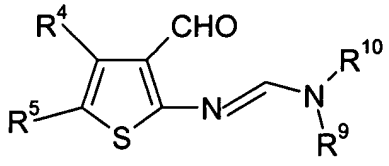
R^7 is a nitrogen protecting group, with a compound of formula (VI)



(VI)

where R^9 and R^{10} are alkyl groups, in the presence of phosphorus oxychloride.

9. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula (III) as defined in claim 6 by reacting a compound of formula (VII)



(VII)

wherein R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, and C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino; and

~~are as in claim 1 and~~ R^9 and R^{10} are alkyl groups~~as defined in claim 8~~, with a compound of formula (VIII)

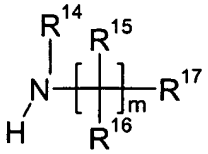
$$(R^7)_2O$$

(VIII)

where R^7 is a nitrogen protecting group~~are as defined in claim 1~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (VII) as defined in claim 9.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, for the production of a second compound of formula (I) where R^6 is hydrogen, ~~and~~ further comprising reacting ~~the~~ a first compound of formula (I) ~~obtained~~ with an amine of formula (XI),



(XI)

where R^{14} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-8}alkyl[[,]];

m is an integer of from 0 to 4[[,]];

each R^{15} is the same or different and is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, C_{3-8}cycloalkylC_{1-6}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, heterocyclic group, and (heterocyclic group)C_{1-6}alkyl; wherein R^{15} may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more P groups, ~~selected from P~~ and ~~wherein~~ if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with an R group ~~selected from R~~;

each R^{16} is the same or different and is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{17} is selected from hydrogen, halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, fluoromethyl, difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkoxy)carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, sulphamoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoylamino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoylamino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylaminocarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, and a group -E-F-G-H;

~~wherein~~ E and G are independently selected from a direct bond, -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO_2-, -OC(O)-, -C(O)O-, -C(O)-, -NR^a-, -NR^aC(O)-, -C(O)NR^a-, -SO_2NR^a-, -NR^aSO_2-, -NR^aC(O)NR^b-, -OC(O)NR^a-, -NR^aC(O)O-, -$NR^aSO_2NR^b$-, -SO_2NR^aC(O)-, and -C(O)NR^aSO_2-; ~~wherein~~ R^a and R^b are independently selected from hydrogen ~~or~~ and C_{1-6}alkyl which is optionally substituted ~~by~~ with a V group ~~V~~;

F is C_{1-6}alkylene optionally substituted by one or more Q or a direct bond;

H is selected from aryl, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, and heterocyclic group; wherein H may be optionally substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more S groups, ~~selected from S~~ and ~~wherein~~ if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted ~~by~~ with a T group ~~selected from T~~;

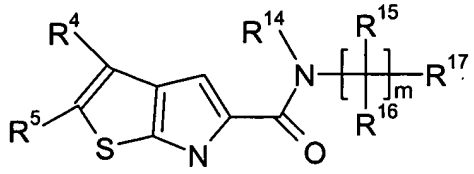
P, S, and Q are independently selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, ureido, C_{1-6}alkyl,

C_{2-6}alkenyl, C_{2-6}alkynyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}alkanoyl, C_{1-6}alkanoyloxy, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$amino, C_{1-6}alkanoylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkoxy)carbamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylS(O)$_a$ wherein a is 0 to 2, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-6}alkoxycarbonylamino, *N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)sulphamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)$_2$sulphamoyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonylamino, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl-*N*-(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, C_{3-8}cycloalkyl, aryl, and heterocyclic group; wherein P, S, and Q may be optionally ~~and~~ independently substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more V groups ~~selected from V~~ and ~~wherein~~ if said heterocyclic group contains an -NH- moiety, that nitrogen may be optionally substituted by a U group ~~selected from U~~;

V is selected from halo, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl, amino, carboxy, carbamoyl, mercapto, sulphamoyl, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, acetyl, acetoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino, acetylamino, *N*-methylcarbamoyl, *N*-ethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylcarbamoyl, *N,N*-diethylcarbamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylcarbamoyl, methylthio, ethylthio, methylsulphinyl, ethylsulphinyl, mesyl, ethylsulphonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, *N*-methylsulphamoyl, *N*-ethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-dimethylsulphamoyl, *N,N*-diethylsulphamoyl, *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylsulphamoyl, morpholino, morpholinocarbonyl, *N*- benzylcarbamoyl, and 4-hydroxypiperidinocarbonyl;

R, T, and U are independently selected from C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{1-4}alkanoyl, C_{1-4}alkylsulphonyl, C_{1-4}alkoxycarbonyl, carbamoyl, *N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, *N,N*-(C_{1-4}alkyl)carbamoyl, phenyl, benzyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, benzoyl, and phenylsulphonyl; wherein R, T, and U may be optionally ~~and~~ independently substituted on carbon ~~by~~ with one or more V groups ~~selected from V~~;

to produce a compound of formula (XII)



(XII)

where R^4, R^5, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, and m are as defined above, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester thereof.